



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

MAR 7 2014

The Honorable Ron Barber
U.S. House of Representatives
Tucson District Office – Attention: Mr. Ron Goslar
3945 E. Fort Lowell, Suite 211
Tucson, AZ 85712

Dear Congressman Barber:

Thank you for your letter of February 12, 2014 to Laura Vaught in the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations in Washington, DC. Your letter was redirected to our San Francisco Regional Office for response. EPA has reviewed the materials you provided to us on behalf of Mr. Chuck Martin of Tucson. Mr. Martin's formal objections on the United States Forest Service's Rosemont Copper Mine Project Final Environmental Impact Statement and draft Record of Decision were submitted to the USFS. As a part of that agency's newly enacted NEPA objections procedures, the USFS should provide a written response to Mr. Martin.

As the lead federal agency, the USFS is the agency best equipped to address Mr. Martin's concerns related to the water quality of the mine pit lake and the potential for that water to have adverse effects on wildlife and migratory bird species. In addition to the USFS's involvement through the NEPA process, the US Fish & Wildlife Service and Arizona Game and Fish Department have regulatory roles related to the management of migratory and endangered wildlife species. These agencies may be able to provide further information on this matter.

For information on EPA's current public position related to Rosemont Copper, you or Mr. Martin can find our comments on the Forest Service's Draft Environmental Impact Statement or our comments on the Corps of Engineers' Clean Water Act Public Notice, on our website at:

<http://www.epa.gov/region9/nepa/letters/az/RosemontCopperProjCoronadoNatForDEIS.pdf> and
<http://www.epa.gov/region9/nepa/letters/az/RosemontEpa3bLtr.pdf>, respectively.

If you or Mr. Martin have any further comments or questions, feel free to have your staff contact our Congressional Liaison, Brent Maier, who can be reached at (415) 947-4256 or maier.brent@epa.gov or Carter Jessop who is the lead reviewer for the Rosemont Copper Mine Project EIS. He is available at (415) 972-3815 or jessop.carter@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Johnson, Director
Enforcement Division